

School Bonding as a Protective Factor...



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Behavioral Health



Epidemiology
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- ✦ Research shows that students who feel bonded to school are less likely to engage in drug abuse¹. Examining data from the 2012 Missouri Student Survey supports this²; those who strongly agree with positive statements about their school and teachers are more likely to report no substance use in the last month when compared to those who strongly disagree with those statements. This suggests that working with schools to increase students' positive perceptions of school and teachers may be an effective way to reduce substance use.
- ✦ Students were asked how much they agreed with the statement "My teacher(s) notices when I am doing a good job and lets me know about it."
 - 20% of those who strongly disagreed with this statement reported smoking cigarettes in the last month while only 7% of those who strongly agreed did the same
 - 11% of those who strongly disagreed with this statement reported abusing prescription drugs in the last month while only 3% of those who strongly agreed did the same
 - 9% of those who strongly disagreed with this statement reported abusing OTC drugs in the last month while only 2% of those who strongly agreed did the same
- ✦ Students were asked how much they agreed with the statement "Rules are enforced fairly."
 - 29% of those who strongly disagreed with this statement reported drinking alcohol in the last month while only 8% of those who strongly agreed did the same
 - 17% of those who strongly disagreed with this statement reported using marijuana in the last month while only 4% of those who strongly agreed did the same
 - 5% of those who strongly disagreed with this statement reported using inhalants in the last month while only 1% of those who strongly agreed did the same
- ✦ The above data points provide a sampling of a larger overall pattern. For all questions asked on the Missouri Student Survey about school bonding, those who strongly disagreed showed more substance use than those who strongly agreed. This applies to past month use for all drugs asked about.
- ✦ While the data above are for all grades combined, the pattern is the same within individual grades. This suggests that this is not simply an effect of age.

¹ http://archives.drugabuse.gov/NIDA_Notes/NNVol16N6/Risk.html

² 2012 MSS Data, special run